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Agenda item 7 (d)
Coordination, programme and other questions: international cooperation in the field of informatics

Morocco:* draft resolution

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics[1] and the initiatives of the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics,

Recognizing the interest of Member States in taking full advantage of information and communication technologies for the acceleration of economic and social development,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and access by all States, with due regard to all official languages,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] E/2003/75.

GE.03-63455 (E) 230703

1. *Reiterates* the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members and observers of the United Nations, as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databasesand information systems and services of the United Nations, provided that the unhindered access of non-governmental organizations to such databases, systems and services shall not prejudice the access of Member States nor impose an additional financial burden for their use;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, its work of facilitating the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and of continuing the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives, and, in this regard, requests the Working Group to continue its efforts in order to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat;

3. *Supports* the efforts of the Working Group to keep intact the network of national focal points established in connection with the year 2000 problem as a vehicle for the diffusion of best practices and lessons learned, in particular for the exchange of information on locally and regionally appropriate solutions and, in this regard, appeals once again to countries and other sources to provide the extrabudgetary resources necessary to maintain the mailing list of the national focal points;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004 on the action taken to follow-up the present resolution; including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.